

# ANT - PROPERTY TASK

[http://www.tutorialspoint.com/ant/ant\\_property\\_task.htm](http://www.tutorialspoint.com/ant/ant_property_task.htm)

Copyright © tutorialspoint.com

Ant build files are written in XML, which does not cater for declaring variables as you do in your favourite programming language. However, as you may have imagined, it would be useful if Ant allowed declaring variables such as project name, project source directory etc.

Ant uses the **property** element which allows you to specify properties. This allows the properties to be changed from one build to another. or from one environment to another.

By default, Ant provides the following pre-defined properties that can be used in the build file

Properties	Description
ant.file	The full location of the build file.
ant.version	The version of the Apache Ant installation.
basedir	The basedir of the build, as specified in the <b>basedir</b> attribute of the <b>project</b> element.
ant.java.version	The version of the JDK that is used by Ant.
ant.project.name	The name of the project, as specified in the <b>name</b> attribute of the <b>project</b> element
ant.project.default-target	The default target of the current project
ant.project.invoked-targets	Comma separated list of the targets that were invoked in the current project
ant.core.lib	The full location of the ant jar file
ant.home	The home directory of Ant installation
ant.library.dir	The home directory for Ant library files - typically ANT_HOME/lib folder.

Ant also makes the system properties (Example: file.separator) available to the build file.

In addition to the above, the user can define additional properties using the **property** element. An example is presented below which shows how to define a property called **sitename**:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<project name="Hello World Project" default="info">
  <property name="sitename" value="www.tutorialspoint.com"/>
  <target name="info">
    <echo>Apache Ant version is ${ant.version} - You are
    at ${sitename} </echo>
  </target>
</project>
```

Running ant on the above build file should produce the following output:

```
C:\>ant
Buildfile: C:\build.xml
```

```
info:
  [echo] Apache Ant version is Apache Ant(TM) version 1.8.2
  compiled on December 20 2010 - You are at www.tutorialspoint.com

BUILD SUCCESSFUL
Total time: 0 seconds
C:\>
```